

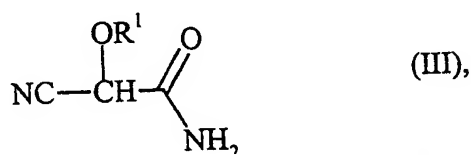
Amendments To The Claims

The following list of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

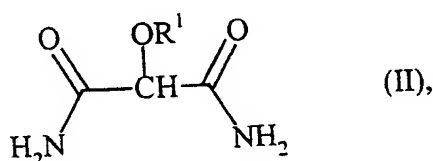
In the Claims:

Claim 1 (canceled).

Claim 2 (original): A process for preparing 2-cyano-2-alkoxyacetamides of the formula:



where R^1 is ~~as defined in claim 1~~ C_{1-6} -alkyl or halogen-substituted C_{1-16} -alkyl, characterized ~~in that~~ comprising reacting the appropriate alkoxy malonamides of the general formula:



where R^1 is ~~as defined in claim 1~~ C_{1-6} -alkyl or halogen-substituted C_{1-16} -alkyl are reacted, with a dehydrating agent and the reaction is stopped before the reaction continues to 2-cyano-2-alkoxyacetamides (I).

Claim 3 (currently amended): The process as claimed in claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the reaction is stopped by cooling the reaction mixture to ~~50-0°C~~ 50 to 0°C.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The process as claimed in claim 2 ~~any of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that,~~ wherein the dehydrating agent used is trifluoroacetic anhydride, dibutyltin oxide, phosphorus oxychloride, phosphorus trichloride or phosphorus pentachloride.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The process as claimed in claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the dehydrating agent is used in quantities of from 0.5 to 6 molar equivalent per amide group of the alkoxymalonamide (II).

Claim 6 (currently amended): The process as claimed in claim 2 ~~any of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that,~~ the dehydration is carried out in a boiling solvent.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The process according to claim 2 ~~any of claims 1 to 6, characterized in that,~~ the dehydration takes place in the presence of a Lewis acid.

Claim 8 (original): The process as claimed in claim 7, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the Lewis acid used is AlCl_3 .

Claim 9 (currently amended): The process as claimed in claim 2, wherein ~~any of claims 1 to 6, characterized in that~~ R^1 is methyl or trifluoromethyl.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A compound of ~~the general formula:~~

where R¹ is ~~as defined in claim 4~~ C₁₋₆-alkyl or halogen-substituted C₁₋₁₆-alkyl.

Claim 11 (new): The process as claimed in claim 3, wherein the dehydrating agent used is trifluoroacetic anhydride, dibutyltin oxide, phosphorus oxychloride, phosphorus trichloride or phosphorus pentachloride.

Claim 12 (new): The process as claimed in claim 3, wherein the dehydration is carried out in a boiling solvent.

Claim 13 (new): The process as claimed in claim 4, wherein the dehydration is carried out in a boiling solvent.

Claim 14 (new): The process as claimed in claim 5, wherein the dehydration is carried out in a boiling solvent.

Claim 15 (new): The process according to claim 3, wherein the dehydration takes place in the presence of a Lewis acid.

Claim 16 (new): The process according to claim 4, wherein the dehydration takes place in the presence of a Lewis acid.

Claim 17 (new): The process according to claim 5, wherein the dehydration takes place in the presence of a Lewis acid.

Claim 18 (new): The process according to claim 6, wherein the dehydration takes place in the presence of a Lewis acid.

Claim 19 (new): The process as claimed in claim 3, wherein R¹ is methyl or trifluoromethyl.

Claim 20 (new): The process as claimed in claim 4, wherein R¹ is methyl or trifluoromethyl.

Claim 21 (new): The process as claimed in claim 5, wherein R¹ methyl or trifluoromethyl.

Claim 22 (new): The process as claimed in claim 6, wherein R¹ is methyl or trifluoromethyl.

Claim 23 (new): The process as claimed in claim 7, wherein R¹ is methyl or trifluoromethyl.

Claim 24 (new): The process as claimed in claim 8, wherein R¹ is methyl or trifluoromethyl.

Abstract

The Abstract has been supplied on the separate page attached hereto in the Appendix.